

WANTED: Fire Safety Educators

Firefighters have known for years that the best fire protection is fire prevention.

The key to prevention is education and awareness – and that is why Fire Safe Tennessee has made it a major goal to identify and train at least one Fire Safety Educator in every Tennessee county.

Because most fire department budgets do not have funding for a paid staff position in fire safety education, fire chiefs and fire fighters spread the message of fire safety themselves, as much as they can. Fire Safe Tennessee, working in concert with the Tennessee Fire Marshal's Office, wants to recruit volunteers who will coordinate the fire safety and prevention education and awareness.

In the past, we've found many volunteers come from the ranks of retired firefighters or retired teachers in a community. But in reality, a Fire Safety Educator can come from any profession as long as he or she is committed to this life-saving effort.

But recruiting these educators is only half the job. The Fire Marshal's Office has applied for a grant to train Fire Safety Educators and equip them with all the tools they need to work with various audiences – pre-school children, classrooms, the elderly and business and community leaders.

Each year, the Fire Marshal's Office honors the Tennessee Fire Safety Educator of the Year, to recognize the commitment and creativity of that work.

Dana Turner, Tennessee's Fire Education Coordinator, also has a wealth of information – including curriculum materials and pamphlets - available for fire officials and fire safety educators. Please let Dana know if there's someone in your community who is interested in becoming a Fire Safety Educator. To reach her, call 615-741-2981 or [click here](#).